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LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement by the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Mr. E. Rakhmonov, which was broadcast on Tajik radio and television on 24 December 1992.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the United Nations Security Council.

(Signed) Lakim K. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the
United Nations

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Annex

STATEMENT

by the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, E. Rakhmonov

The year 1992 will go down in the history of the Tajik people as an extremely tragic period. For while our neighbours, who were linked with us in the past by a common fate, were making progress along the course of independent politico-economic development, we, through the fault of certain parties and socio-political associations, were being drawn into the abyss of war. Those who wanted to seize power by force, by non-democratic means, became responsible as a result of their illegal actions, for the merciless killing of members of their own people - our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and children. Our beloved homeland was turned into a shooting-range, our house was threatened with destruction, and instead of festivities we are holding funerals. The Tajiks have become refugees in their own land. Tajiks have begun to fear Tajiks.

All this happened because lawlessness erupted in Tajikistan; everywhere the fundamental human right - the right to life - was being violated, especially in the capital, Dushanbe; and an atmosphere of terror, intimidation, lies and provocation set in. People lived in a state of fear for their lives, the lives of their children, their homes and the future. In reality, this was no life. However no one, not even those who are now concerned about the protection of individual rights in Tajikistan, spoke out at that time in defence of the population of the Republic, and instead the persecution of people on the basis of their nationality, religion and regional origin intensified. Ill-considered statements by certain leaders of political parties on taking Russian-speaking citizens hostage led to their mass exit. As to the Tajik people themselves, they left their homes in the land of their ancestors where they had lived for years, and as a result the division of the Tajik people on the basis of "regional origin" became inevitable. Every eighth citizen of Tajikistan became a refugee in his own land.

The reason for this misfortune is the political confrontation resulting from claims to power which led to a paralysis of the constitutional structures, including the law-protection bodies. As a result, violation of the law became a vital credo for certain persons competing for public office. The result of the unfolding process was the so-called "government of national reconciliation" established by force. Since it was not recognized by most districts and regions of the Republic and by over 80 per cent of the population of Tajikistan, the situation in the country could not be normalized, and the "Government of National Reconciliation" announced its resignation. Finally, in November 1992, the XVI session of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan was held, at which, along with other problems, the deputies considered the question of the resignation of the Government. A new membership of the Presidium of the Supreme Council was elected, and a Council

of Ministers of the Republic was formed; they are now making great efforts to bring about a rapid stabilization of the turbulent situation in Tajikistan.

In carrying out this very complex and critical task, the leadership of the Republic is making use of all the possibilities and taking all the necessary steps. A general amnesty law has been adopted, under which all persons who committed crimes and illegal actions in the period from 27 May to 25 November 1992 have been exonerated from criminal, disciplinary and administrative liability. A law on refugees has been adopted which offers possible benefits to refugees. At the same time, the Presidium of the Supreme Council and the Government of the Republic have adopted a number of decisions concerning the surrender of weapons by armed groups and the improvement of the economic situation. We are firmly resolved to ensure that they are implemented unconditionally.

At the same time, certain groups of illegal armed formations, having rejected the proposals put forward by the leadership of the Republic for a peaceful settlement, are continuing a fratricidal war in a number of regions. Because considerable resources of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Committee have been mobilized to halt the war, the Government's ability to establish legality throughout the country, and in particular in the city of Dushanbe, is limited. Taking advantage of this, some groups are committing crimes, killing innocent persons and plundering the property of the population.

I state with full authority that such criminal groups are enemies of the people and of the legitimate Government of Tajikistan. The Government of the Republic and its competent bodies are taking and will take strict measures to control them. Punishment for each person who commits a crime will be determined by the court, and no person or group of people has the right to administer mob law, since violence engenders more violence.

In this connection, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Security Committee and other competent bodies of the Republic have been given the necessary instructions to pursue criminals, thoroughly investigate all incidents and assess them on the basis of the law. The self-disbanded courts and prosecutors' offices will be re-established and we hope that they will soon start work and will strengthen the foundations of legality.

The goal of the criminal groups, which, posing as government forces, are murdering people on the basis of the region, nation or faith they belong to, is to undermine the authority of the legitimate Government.

I should stress that the Republic of Tajikistan, recognizing the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter and other international agreements, will build its internal and external policy on the basis of these instruments and will not allow human rights to be violated because of national, religious, racial or religious affiliation.

The doors of Tajikistan are open to all countries and international organizations. Thus, for a long time now representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of "Médecins sans frontières" have been working in the Republic. In addition, I have sent a message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations requesting him to dispatch a permanent group of expert observers to Tajikistan to make an objective analysis of the situation in our country.

I have stated several times and repeat once again that I am in favour of building a democratic, legal and secular State; and this principle of our development corresponds to universal values. The Government will consistently promote the establishment of democratic norms in the political life of society. However, the Government will not allow any persons or groups, under the banner of democracy, to jeopardize democracy, undermine the Constitution and operative laws of the Republic, spread public discord and draw the people into a fratricidal war.

The majority of the population of Tajikistan is Muslim. In the Republic there are also many adherents of other religions and faiths. The Government not only respects the religious feelings of nationals who are followers of Islam, but also allows freedom of worship for adherents of other faiths. However, this does not mean that religious leaders should interfere in matters of State, divide people into Muslims and "non-believers" and spread discord among the people. Faith is a personal matter for each individual, and I call on all religious leaders of the Republic to carry out their religious rites within a framework of legality and to contribute to the moral improvement of the people and the normalization of the situation in society.

I believe that the people of Tajikistan will demonstrate prudence, stop the fratricidal war, engage in constructive work and soon bring our beloved nation out of its politico-economic and socio-cultural crisis and ensure its well-being and prosperity. These are the hopes and aspirations of all the inhabitants of Tajikistan, and the Government will take all possible measures to ensure that they become a reality.

This statement was broadcast on Tajik radio and television on 24 December 1992